



(Photo by Warrant Officer Don Ellibee, 4th BCT (ABN), 25th Inf. Div.)

## Paratroopers show solidarity

Col. Michael Garrett, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, gives a young Iraqi boy a soccer poster. The 25th ID was in Haswah with Iraqi Army soldiers talking to some of the vendors and buying some of their goods in an attempt to build relationships with the people in the area.

# DCG conducts Enabling Force Assessment

By Sgt. 1st Class Nick Conner  
15th Sus. Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq-Lt. Gen. John Wood, deputy commanding general, Joint Forces Command, met with leaders of the 15th Sustainment Brigade during visit here Dec. 5.

As part of an overall Enabling Force Assessment, Col. Aundre Piggee, commander, 15th SB, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), provided the foundations and capabilities of the

"Wagonmasters."

One of Wood's first priorities centered on matching strategic capabilities to resources available.

"We need to bring the right size force to the fight; to support the fight," he said.

As one of the new, restructured sustainment brigades, Piggee said the modularity design worked well, especially coming from Fort Hood, Texas.

"By replacing the 4th Infantry Division, we already had a good working relationship with those units from home

station," he said.

Piggee pointed out that the Soldiers of his brigade provide supply distribution and logistics support to virtually every coalition unit with in the Multi-National Division- Baghdad footprint.

"We move equipment throughout the entire battle space," said Piggee. "Everyday, all classes of supply move on the roads of Iraq by troops of the 15th

# 15th SB stands ready for more

## Assessment

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Sustainment Brigade."

In addition to ensuring that ammunition and materials get to the fight, Piggee explained his brigade has more than half of all the supply support activities in the Iraqi theater.

With an area that large, Wood asked if the "Wagonmasters" could extend that support to Marine Corps units operating in the west?

Piggee told the general his brigade could easily support the Marines, noting the issue wouldn't be maintaining supply and logistics to Marine units, but one of inter-service supply communication channels. Simply put, translating Marine Corps supply lingo to Army supply lingo.

One solution offered by the brigade during the assessment discussion was the creation of "super" SSAs -- large, centrally located multi-class supply yards. With two or three of these logistics hubs, units would have a "one-stop-shop" for material, ammunition and supplies.

"In my opinion, it would work very



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Nick Conner, 15th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs Officer)

**Lt. Gen. John Wood (left), deputy commanding general, Joint Forces Command, walks with Col. Aundre Piggee, commander, 15th Sustainment Brigade, during a visit to discuss the brigade's mission and capabilities.**

well," said Piggee.

Another point Wood asked of the 15th SB leadership was training the Iraqis on logistics.

"We've grown tactically within the ISF (Iraqi Security Force)," he said, but noted that the logistic effort hasn't grown at the same pace.

"That's the chronic weakness...of the

ISF," he said.

Piggee said his brigade currently gives technical assistance and advice to the training of the Iraqis.

"Currently separate units have the responsibility of operating Mobile Training Teams. We advise the MTTs, but they do the training," he said. "We stand ready to undertake a larger role in training the ISF."

## Arabic Phrase of the Day

*inaaya tibbiyya*

**Defined:  
medical care**

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 65  
Low: 41



Tomorrow

High: 65  
Low: 39



Wednesday

High: 68  
Low: 39

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# 15th BSB, 'Guardian Angels' for EOD Sailors

By Spc. Alexis Harrison  
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq - Some might say sitting around all day waiting for a phone call isn't exciting. Diffusing roadside bombs and unexploded ordnance could be more fulfilling if you've got pyrotechnic blood running through your veins.

While members of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Mobile Unit 2, Detachment 6 from Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, Va., work, they have guardian angels working alongside them on every mission.

Soldiers from Company C, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, provide what some might call an invaluable asset to the EOD team.

Sgt. Latunya Cannady, an evacuation team sergeant from Parkin, Ark., said they provide life-saving support because it's as simple as someone's life being important.

The ambulance platoon from the

"Trauma" company has been out with the EOD teams on just about a daily basis. While no life-saving maneuvers have been performed yet, they're always ready, according to Cannady.

"I'd say we have one of the more daunting tasks within the unit," said New Orleans native Staff Sgt. Kiamonia Franklin, the ambulance platoon's noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "We're going outside the wire with these guys every day."

Franklin said sometimes the mission turns out to be a false alarm, but sometimes there's a real threat. Sometimes, she said, just getting to the site can be a task in itself.

Cannady recalled a mission not too long ago when a routine call turned out to be a lot more than what was expected. It turned out to be a test of not only her team's strength but her's as well.

While on the way to a suspected roadside bomb, Cannady and her team were assisting the EOD team like usual. Along the way, something happened unexpectedly. One of the vehicles in her convoy was

struck by a bomb that exploded just off the road.

"My first thought was, 'oh my god,'" Cannady said. "My main concern though was making sure everyone was all right. We still had a mission to complete, and we couldn't have done it without everyone being OK."

The mission did go on and was later a success.

The bomb they encountered was only strong enough to pop the tire on the Humvee.

Cannady said she counts on a higher power to get her back in one piece.

As for her Soldiers, she believes she should be able to lead them even in times of danger.

"As an NCO, you have to be strong for your Soldiers no matter what," she said.

The platoon was called again on Nov. 27. Supposedly, there was an unexploded 82 mm mortar shell in the same place there had been one a few days earlier. Nonetheless, the team linked up with the Naval unit to go investigate.

Along the way, the platoon encountered another unit's cordon. The other unit had discovered a suspicious bag that they had yet to call in. The EOD team later discovered it was just a bag of parsley. Cannady said it's better to be safe than sorry in any case.

The ambulances kept rolling along until they retrieved the mortar round. The EOD team did their work without incident. The group then returned to the FOB with their perfect record intact.

"There's always a small chance something could go wrong," Franklin said. "But my Soldiers are strong. They have a lot of courage."

"These guys are awesome," said native Chief Petty Officer Adam Schenkel, the EOD team chief, of Byram, N.J. "They help increase the chance we'll survive if anything goes wrong."

Yet, nothing's gone wrong.

Even a bomb hasn't kept the ambulances from going on missions. They sit by the phone, waiting for the call of duty, and as long as there's a call for the Naval EOD, Franklin and Cannady and their teams will be right there with them.



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Chief Petty Officer Adam Schenkel, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Chief, Mobile Unit 2, Detachment 6 from Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, Va., shows Pfc. Cassey Watkins, a medic from the ambulance platoon, Company C, 15th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, a piece of an IED they found while on a mission.

# Fort Lewis MPs to begin new mission in Iraq

**Sgt. Armando Monroig**  
5th MPAD

BAQUBAH, Iraq - The U.S. Army's 571st Military Police Company from Fort Lewis, Wash., arrived in Baqubah last week to take over as the police transition team for the Diyala Province in mid-December.

The 571st's area of operation will include the Iraqi police district headquarters, and nine police stations in Baqubah and four in Muqadadiyah.

The unit is relieving the Alabama National Guard's 128th Military Police Company, from Huntsville, Ala., which has been conducting ongoing operations and providing over-watch for Iraq's police in the area, said Capt. Jeff Knudson, the commander of the 571st MP Co.

"The overall intent is to bring each of the stations that are under our purview to a level where they can conduct law and order operations completely on their own with minimal amount of MP over-watch," said Knudson.

In order to accomplish this, Knudson said his unit will help each station develop its' force protection measures, and teach IP officers law and order and counter-insurgency operations.

Knudson said his unit's effort will help residents' confidence in the local police.

"By helping develop the IP into a professional force, we build trust and confidence among the Iraqi population that their police force is there to help protect them and enforce the laws of the Iraqi government," he said.

Knudson said that working



(Photo by Sgt. Armando Monroig, 5th MPAD)

**Sgt. Jill Patterson (left,) Staff Sgt. Jefferey Evans (center,) and Sgt. 1st Class. Spencer Frost, from the 571st Military Police Company, conduct communications checks on the radio of one of their vehicles, Nov. 29, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq.**

with local police will help U.S. troops win over Iraqis as well.

"By engaging the Iraqi populous while we are out with the IPs, we also help build trust and confidence that we are there to assist the IPs and Iraqi government, and that we are not here as a permanent force," said Knudson.

Initially, members of the 571st will take part in missions conducted by the 128th MP Co., to get familiar with the area and the local police.

Knudson said his unit is eager to take on the challenge of training the local Iraqi police force.

"We're excited to be here," he said. "The 571st is ready to make a difference and help develop the Iraqi police so that at the end of our tour we can leave knowing we've developed them as best as we possibly could, and hopefully to a point where they are working

autonomously."

Sgt. Donald Squires, a team leader assigned to the 571st MP Co., and a native of Cove, Ark., said that he feels his unit will make a difference.

"Just like every unit, we have a small piece of the pie. If we get our part done and everybody else gets their part done, it should make it better for the Iraqi people to run their government," he said.

Pfc. Damon LeGrand, also with the 571st MP Co., and a native of San Diego, said that he hoped to leave behind a legacy for the citizens of Baqubah and Muqadadiyah.

"I hope we instill in them and their children what it is to fight for freedom, for the ability to have a good life and not have someone dictate everything to you," said LeGrand.

The mission of training Diyala's police force won't be without challenges, conceded

Knudson. He said Iraq's foreign culture and Arabic-speaking population will be the most obvious obstacles to accomplishing his unit's mission.

He also said that helping the Iraqi police develop their own way of effectively conducting law and order operations without forcing them to adopt American systems will be a daunting task.

"Implementing a law enforcement framework that follows internationally accepted standards and procedures," is yet another challenge, said Knudson.

But the 571st MP Co. has a plan for on how to face those challenges.

"Partnering with each Iraqi police station and learning what assistance they'd like to get from us, instead of us going in and telling them what we're going to do" is one possible solution, said Knudson.